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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany

SUBJECT *Brandt, Dr. Erwin*
Interrogation of Erwin Brandt

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INTERROGATION OF ERWIN BRANDT

(8 Aug 1947)

Interrogator: Dr. R. M. W. Kampner

Witness: Miss Jane Lester

Stenographer: Ilse Kerl

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Dr. Erwin Brandt is brought out of confinement for questioning. He was born on 4 Mar 1899 in Goshren/Mecklenburg.

- Q. What was your last profession?
A. Criminal advisor.
- Q. What investigations did you make?
A. In an official capacity?
- Q. Have you already been interrogated on this?
A. Yes.
- Q. By whom?
A. I don't know the name of the man.
- Q. /Interrogated/ on what?
A. On my activity in the headquarters of the Reichs Security Service.
- Q. What did you work on?
A. Report IV A 1. Communism.

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- Q. Did you have much to do with the Foreign Office?
 A. No. I was concerned only with things of a criminal nature.
- Q. Were you sometimes given assignments by the Foreign Office?
 A. No.
- Q. Not by other ministries? With which ministry were you connected?
 A. I worked in a division of the Russian intelligence service. The Foreign Office and Ministry could be of no help here.
- Q. How long were you active there?
 A. From 1932 on.
- Q. Who was your Criminal Commissioner thereafter?
 A. Braschwitz and Heller.
- Q. What happened to Heller?
 A. He committed suicide.
- Q. And Braschwitz?
 A. He was in Dachau and was handed over to Slovakia.
- Q. What was your activity in foreign countries?
 A. Partisan activity in Yugoslavia.
- Q. How were you connected with the "Internal Intelligence Service"?
 A. What were your duties?
 It is difficult to explain it in one sentence. I would have to give you the background of the entire Communist movement.....
- Q. We are familiar with it. What did you do there? Who did you observe?
 A. In Berlin?
- Q. I want to know whom you observed? Embassies, officials of embassies?
 A. We observed only the officials of the Russian Embassy.
- Q. But Americans were observed too.
 A. Not by me.
- Q. Who observed them?
 A. By the "Landerreferat" [Department for Matters of Individual States].
- Q. What was that?
 A. It could have been an office of IV B.
- Q. Do you know who had America?
 A. No, because I was a soldier from 1941 on.
- Q. Who observed America?
 A. I can't tell you.
- Q. Refresh your memory.
 A. I was concerned only with Russian and Komintern affairs.
- Q. Was it interesting?
 A. It could be considered so.
- Q. Your first name?
 A. Erwin.
- Q. You know Johannes Muller?
 A. Yes.

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- Q. Have you talked to him?
A. I had no opportunity.
- Q. Were you quartered elsewhere?
A. No, on the same floor. We met only while taking a walk.
- Q. Speaking is probably forbidden. Did you have any dealings with anti-Komintern Propaganda?
A. No, that was an independent outfit.
- Q. Who was in authority?
A. It was controlled by the Propaganda Ministry.
- Q. Do you know Manfred Zapp?
A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know Ehot?
A. I do.
- Q. You gave him material?
A. Not from us. What we had was so ticklish, that not even our people received it.
- Q. What do you mean "ticklish"?
A. The intelligence service was so set up, that it was impossible to give information to a larger group of people.
- Q. Because you yourselves had a large number of Communists who belonged to the Russian party organ.
A. You mean out of our own ranks? Only few.
- Q. Where did you get your information?
A. From our own ranks.
- Q. But you had people from Russia who worked for you?
A. Yes, we did.
- Q. Were they in Russia or in Germany?
A. In Germany.
- Q. Are they still alive?
A. I don't know. It is possible that they are now active in SED.
- Q. When did you learn about the Russian Pact of 1939?
A. Through the press.
- Q. Not before?
A. I would certainly tell you.
- Q. How come?
A. It did not concern us. It was an exclusive group. Organizations of Komintern were highly illegal and existed during the time when Germany was Communistic, and served in part as informants.
- Q. Who was the person chiefly responsible?
A. Hans Kippenberger. Later divided into AM Group and later....
- Q. What is the AM Group?
A. It means "Anti-Military Group of the KPD" [Communist Party of Germany].

- Q. Until when did they have intelligence organizations?
A. Up to 1945. Then they were wiped out.
- Q. Were the expenditures for them very great?
A. Comparatively small.
- Q. The Prussian police never spent much money. You can go right ahead and speak to me about these things. What is preventing you?
A. You're firing questions at me so rapidly.
- Q. Do you know who I am?
A. Prof (Dr) Kempner.
- Q. You can talk to me about these things. Perhaps you could write this thing down. Then you can call me.
A. It would take a long time. I must do it all from memory. I must continually refer back to the entire development.
- Q. Do it as you think best. You don't have to sign anything.
A. Is it possible that the Russians would find out about it?
- Q. Not a soul. Only I.
A. All my relatives--I am single--are in the Russian Zone.
- Q. Have no fear. When you are ready, write that you wish to see me. We can talk in privacy then, to what extent things have changed if through the war, or the alliance and other things. You know....
A. Do you know the pass word, "Red Band" [Rote Kapelle] ?
- Q. Yes. Did you work with Roder?
A. No.

- E N D -

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2.

2. You will note that at the end of his interrogation Brandt indicated a knowledge of the operations of the ROSE KAPLAN Soviet espionage network. We have no record of any supplemental or collateral interrogation of Brandt. It is requested that you locate Brandt and arrange to interrogate him in the fullest possible detail concerning his knowledge of ROSE KAPLAN, his knowledge of any other Soviet espionage operations, and his knowledge of illegal underground Communist activities in Germany, particularly during the period from 1933 to 1945.

cc: Heidelberg

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